

# ▼ MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS ▼

Reaching Manhood, Young Torrance Dons a New Suit of Clothes . . . With Eight Pairs of Pants . . . and Thereby Sets a Record for Other Cities to Try to Approach, If They Can . . .

THERE comes a day in every lad's life when he attains his growth and dons man's attire. Usually this means a complete new outfit of clothing, including long pants (or at least it did for the older generation), a stylish hat, new shirts, sox, shoes—everything from skin to coat.

And inasmuch as cities have a life span longer than that of humans, they should reach this age with a few more years behind them.

Celebrating, at the most, its 25th birthday, young Torrance is setting an example to its brother and sister cities by doing this very thing. A new suit of clothes is being donned, including everything from city hall to city jail.

#### Eight at a Time

HAS THERE ever been another city like it? One building at a time is about all that can be handled, customarily. But Torrance is not satisfied with one, nor two, nor four. It is putting on eight!

One was completed this spring. Four more are to be dedicated Saturday. And two new ones and alteration of another are planned for immediate action,—in fact, the alteration will be completed this week.

And the beauty of this new suit of clothes—"with eight pairs of pants"—is that it is tailored to fit. Seven of the eight new buildings were tailored by the same architects

and fitted by the same general contractors.

**Same Architects, Contractors**  
MUCH could and should be said in praise of these men, Walker and Eisen, architects, are among the most prominent firms in Los Angeles. They have planned some of the finest structures in that city and their work is known throughout the southwest. Among their achievements is the design of the United Artists theater in Los Angeles.

And W. W. Petley and C. Matcham, general contractors, proved themselves so efficient on the first of these buildings that when enlargement of the program was decided upon there was not the slightest objection to having the same workmen complete the entire program. More praise than

that could hardly be written. What are these new buildings?

#### Large City Hall

FIRST, as headquarters for the city, comes the new city hall. Torrance had so outgrown its former quarters, which had served thruout its lifetime as a city, that a single department now utilizes almost as much space as was given to all of them together in the old hall.

Until now headquarters for the city have been upstairs over a garage. True, the garage was the fire station, but the location was hardly suitable for a city of Torrance's size and importance.

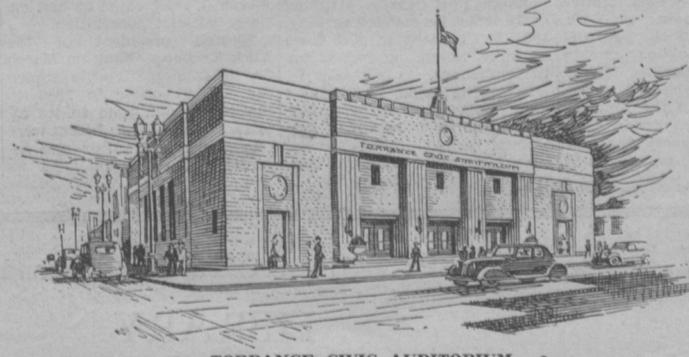
Now the headquarters are in one of the most modern buildings in the State, and are on the lower floor.



• TORRANCE CITY HALL •



• TORRANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY •



• TORRANCE CIVIC AUDITORIUM •

Eight Modern Structures Effectively Grouped in a Beautiful Civic Center



• PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



• UNITED STATES POST OFFICE



• FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS



• WATER DEPARTMENT BUILDING

## ▼ TORRANCE . . . on REVIEW

Eight new municipal buildings at approximately the same time.

Total cost estimated at about \$225,250.

Five buildings completed—post office, city hall, police headquarters, auditorium and library—at cost of \$206,843.89.

Federal government paid for post office—\$52,279.10—in full and has granted \$54,605 to date toward the others. Will probably pay 45 percent of total costs. Proposed administration building may house chamber of commerce.

Old city hall to be razed and modern fire headquarters to be erected on site. All buildings are grouped around El Prado park, furnishing city with model civic center.

Entering the new city hall one finds the city clerk's office on his left. Back of it is a private office for the clerk, while a large vault, 12 feet deep, protects the records.

Across the hall is the office of the city engineer. This, too, has a private office and vault for the maps and data.

#### For Mayor and Council

CONTINUING down the central hall one finds, on the left, the office of the mayor followed by the council chambers. And opening from both of these is a committee room for the use of the council.

To the right, after passing a hall to the side building entrance, one finds the courtroom, with seats for 118 in the audience. Ahead of the bar is plenty of room for the court

attendants, jury, etc., while opening from this section are the chambers for the judge at the left and a jury room at the right.

The new police headquarters and city jail is in a separate building, just south of the city hall and constructed under the same contract. It provides plenty of space for the department, with a private office for the chief and a squad room for the men. In the rear are five cells and a tank for male prisoners, two cells for women. These are built of the most modern tool-proof steel, with locking devices similar to those used in model prisons.

Cost of the city hall and jail, completely equipped, was \$60,161.51.

Largest of the new build-

ings is the auditorium, with accommodations for 1100 persons. It is of the most modern type of steel-frame, quake and fire resistant construction and is equipped with a loud speaker system making it possible for anyone to hear the least whisper from the large stage. The acoustics have been tested and are said to be excellent. This splendid edifice cost \$62,500.76.

#### Larger Library

THIRD of the municipal buildings is the new library, costing \$31,902.52. Here will be housed the present collection of 6000 volumes, while capacity on the shelves is furnished for 17,500 volumes. Assurance has been given by the county public library department, operating the library for the city under contract, that the stock will be increased just as rapidly as its use justifies.

Completed earlier this year at a cost of \$52,279.10, the new post office would be a credit to any community.

Planned as additions to the compact group of civic buildings are the new fire headquarters, to occupy the old city hall site, at an estimated cost of \$9000. An administration building, near the auditorium, will cost \$8500, while remodeling the former Dominguez Land building for the water department is to cost \$900.